

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

NEBRASKA
 AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Week Ending May 17, 1987

Issue: 10-87

Phone: (402) 471-5541

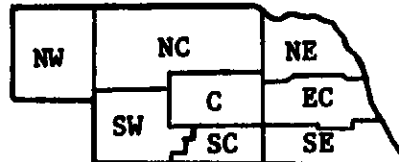
P.O. Box 81069

Released: 5/18/87 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: 273 Federal Bldg.

Lincoln, NE 68501

National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
and U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
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WEATHER

The week was warm and mostly dry. Scattered showers were reported midweek and again Sunday night. One-half to one inch of rainfall was reported in the south central and southwest. Average temperatures ranged from 9 to 12 degrees above normal.

GENERAL

Warm, dry conditions during the week accelerated crop planting progress across Nebraska and boosted plant emergence. Scattered rain showers briefly interrupted planting at midweek. Corn, soybean and sorghum planting was in full swing. Emergence of the seeded crops was ahead of normal in most areas. Seeding grass on CRP acres was active also. Western Nebraska farmers were tilling summerfallow acreage, cultivating sugar beets and preparing dry bean seedbeds. Hail and strong winds hit some areas of the western counties Sunday afternoon. Spraying for weed and insect control was active in many areas. The number of days suitable for fieldwork averaged 6.5 days for the State.

Topsoil moisture condition rated 50% short and 50% adequate as of Friday. Rains on Sunday will improve these ratings. Subsoil moisture condition rated 5% short, 87% adequate and 8% surplus. Last year, topsoil moisture rated 10% short, 58% adequate and 32% surplus, while subsoil moisture rated 9% short, 80% adequate and 11% surplus.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition rated 10% fair, 75% good and 15% excellent. The crop was 95% jointed compared to 92% last year and a 70% average. The warm weather pushed the crop to 20% headed compared to 16% last year and a 10% average.

Corn planting raced ahead to 90% complete compared to 85% last year and a 60% average. Some replanting was necessary in the south central counties due to crusting following heavy rains. The crop was 48% emerged compared to 42% last year and a 22% average.

Soybean planting progressed to 32% complete compared to 27% last year and a 13% average. Some growers in the east and northeast were waiting on improved topsoil moisture levels to continue planting.

Sorghum planting advanced to 27% complete, well ahead of last year's 18% and the average of 10%.

Alfalfa hay condition rated 3% poor, 15% fair, 68% good and 14% excellent. The decline in condition is related to the damage caused by alfalfa weevils in the southwest, south central, east central and southeast areas. Some growers are cutting the first crop early to minimize the drop in quality. Wild hay condition rated 22% fair, 74% good and 4% excellent.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range feed supplies rated 6% short, 81% adequate and 13% surplus. Summer pastures continue to supply good feed as more cattle and calves are turned out. Calves were worked and branded before going to the summer grass. Some pastures were showing the affects of the hot, windy conditions.

Precipitation, April 1 - May 15, 1987

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week22	.10	.08	.24	.31	.15	.13	.08
Total since April 1	2.70	2.36	1.58	2.35	2.25	3.50	4.24	4.88
Normal since April 1	3.09	3.44	4.01	3.77	4.25	3.20	3.78	4.55

[illegible]

Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1</u> / <u>100</u>
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	89	48	65	--	.18
	Scottsbluff	86	49	66	+9	.43
	Sidney	85	49	65	--	0
NC	Ord	--	--	--	--	--
	Valentine	91	50	69	+12	0
NE	Norfolk	93	46	72	+12	.20
	Sioux City	95	48	71	+10	.15
CEN	Grand Island	90	49	70	+10	.51
EC	Lincoln	91	47	71	+10	T
	Omaha	89	54	73	+12	.07
SW	Imperial	--	--	--	--	--
	North Platte	90	45	68	+11	1.30

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (ISSN 0745-0230) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 273 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 471-5541 and available for \$12.00 per year to non-reporters. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P. O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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